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Hexapod Herald

Volume 22

February 2010

Number 1

WELCOME

New Distance Masters Students:

Spring 2010: **Adam Barnard**, Lancaster, CA; **Murray Eiland**, Danville, CA; **Christina Fennell**, Spring, TX; **Alexa Harrod**, Cabot, AR; **Anastasia Lescewicz-Hillier**, Weeping Water, NE; **Susan McMahon**, Whitmore Lake, MI; **Donne Schlessinger**, Collinsville, IL

Summer 2010: **Eric Mader**, Madison, WI

Fatima Mustafa is a new Ph.D. student working under the supervision of **Drs. Wyatt Hoback** and **John Foster**. Fatima received her B.S. degree in Agriculture in 2007, and her M.S. Degree in Agriculture in 2009, both from the University of Agriculture-Faisalabad in Pakistan.

Mitch Stamm is a new Ph.D. student, but he is not a new student to the Entomology Department. Mitch, working under the supervision of **Drs. Fred Baxendale** and **Tiffany Heng-Moss**, received his M.S. degree from UNL in December. He will continue to work with Drs. Baxendale and Heng-Moss on the differential responses of the western chinch bug, *Blissus occiduus*, to neonicotinyl insecticides.

Matt Yans is also not new to the Entomology Department, even though he is a new M.S. student who will be working under the supervision of **Dr. Roberto Cortinas**. Matt received his B.S. degree in insect science from UNL in 2009.



Fatima



Mitch



Matt

New insect science majors are **Jenny Freed** from Loomis, NE; **Ginny Morgal** from Lincoln, NE; and **BJ Spring** from Lincoln, NE.

CONGRATULATIONS

The following students graduated December 2009:

Laura Campbell, Ph.D. (Advisor – **Dr. Lance Meinke**)

Sean Putnam, Ph.D. (Advisors – **Dr. David Stanley** and **Dr. Paul Staswick**)

Mitchell Stamm, M.S. (Advisors – **Dr. Fred Baxendale** and **Dr. Tiffany Heng-Moss**)

Abby Stilwell, Ph.D. (Advisors – **Dr. Gary Hein** and **Dr. Steve Danielson**)

Stephen Young, M.S. (Advisor – **Dr. Lance Meinke**)

William Herman, M.S. (Advisor – **Dr. Tom Weissling**)

Edward Snow, M.S. (Advisor – **Dr. Tom Weissling**)

Catherine Webster, M.S. (Advisor – **Dr. Tom Weissling**)

Danyck Yoon, M.S. (Advisor – **Dr. Tom Weissling**)

B.S. in Diversified Agriculture – **Casey Collins**, **Kyle Rodie**, **Brandon Rudolph**, **Lukas Rupprecht**

B.S. in Forensic Science – **Laura Cook**, **Joy Rager**

B.S. in Insect Science – **Brandon White**

Dr. Tiffany Heng-Moss received the Excellence in Teaching Award from the Nebraska Chapter of Gamma Sigma Delta. Tiffany was presented the award at the Gamma Sigma Delta Initiation and Awards Banquet held January 24, 2010.



Dean Steve Waller and Dr. Tiffany Heng-Moss



Tim Husen and Dr. Bob Wright

Tim Husen received the Outstanding Graduate Student Award from the Nebraska Chapter of Gamma Sigma Delta at their annual banquet. Tim is a Ph.D. student working under the supervision of **Dr. Shripat Kamble**. This was the first year for the award for which candidates, as one of the requirements, have demonstrated outstanding accomplishment in their teaching, research, or extension endeavors, and also show great promise for future academic contributions in their field of expertise.

MEETING NEWS

National ESA Meeting

Dr. Shripat Kamble was named an Honorary Member of the ESA.

Tim Husen received the ESA Student Certification Award.

Mitch Stamm, Sek Yee Tan, and Wayne Ohnesorg all were awarded 1st place in the Student 10-Minute Oral Presentation competition.

The newly created International Branch held its first election, and chose its 2010 officers, who are President James Harwood, President-Elect Charles Vincent, Secretary Margaret Gentz, **Treasurer Srinivas Parimi**, and Governing Board Representative Myron Zalucki.

18th Annual Urban Pest Management Conference

The 18th Annual Nebraska Urban Pest Management was held February 2-3, 2010 at the Cornhusker-Marriott Hotel in Lincoln, NE. **Dr. Shripat Kamble**, coordinator for the conference, reported a total of 167 professional who participated in this conference including 27 speakers who addressed 55 different topics. Pest management professionals received recertification in structural pest control, wood destroying organisms, public health pest control, and food processing and grain fumigation. Contributions made by the Entomology Department faculty, staff, and students were greatly appreciated.

PUBLICATIONS

Brust, M.L., W.W. Hoback and R.J. Wright. 2009. Apparent hybridization between *Trimerotropis agrestis* and *Trimerotropis maritima* (Orthoptera: Acrididae) in a recently disturbed habitat. J. Kansas Entomol. Soc. 82(3): 215-222.

Gutsche, Andrea R., Tiffany M. Heng-Moss, Leon G. Higley, Gautam Sarath, and Dolores W. Mornhinweg. 2009. Physiological responses of resistant and susceptible barley, *Hordeum vulgare* to the Russian wheat aphid, *Diurpahis noxia* (Mordvilko). Arthropod-Plant Interactions 3(4): 233-240.

Jameson, M.L., D.E. Oishi, B.C. Ratcliffe, and G.T. McQuate. 2009. Two additional invasive scarabaeoid beetles (Coleoptera: Scarabaeidae: Dynastinae) in Hawaii. Proceedings of the Hawaiian Entomological Society 41: 25-30.

Molina-Ochoa, Jaime, Khuong B. Nguyen, Martín González-Ramírez, Miguel Guadalupe Quintana-Moreno, Roberto Lezama-Gutiérrez, and **John D. Foster**. 2009. *Steinernema Diaprepesi* (Nematoda: Steinernematidae): Its Occurrence in Western Mexico and Susceptibility of Engorged Cattle Ticks *Boophilus Microplus* (Acari: Ixodidae). Florida Entomologist 92(4): 661-663.

Spomer, Neil A. and **Shripat T. Kamble**. 2010. Sorption and Desorption of Fipronil in Midwestern Soils. Bulletin of Environmental Contamination and Toxicology 84(2): 264-268.

Spomer, Neil A., **Shripat T. Kamble**, Mark A. Coffelt, and Clay W. Scherer. 2010. Mineralization of Indoxacarb 150sc Termiticide in Urban Soils Used for Controlling Subterranean Termites (Isoptera: Rhinotermitidae). Sociobiology, 55(1B): 197-215.

Ratcliffe, B.C. and **J. Orozco**. 2009. A Review of the biology of *Pericoptus truncatus* (Fabr.) (Coleoptera: Scarabaeidae: Pentodontini) from New Zealand and a revised description of the third instar larva. Coleopterists Bulletin 63(4): 445-451.

Ratcliffe, B.C. 2010. VIII Reunión Latinoamericana de Scarabaeoidología, 13-17 de October, 2009, Xalapa, Mexico. <http://www-museum.unl.edu/research/entomology/RELAS/Mexico-2009/Mexico.html> and <http://www-museum.unl.edu/research/entomology/RELAS/Mexico-2009/fotos.html>.

Ratcliffe, B.C. 2009. Them scientific names. Scarabs 37: 16-17.

Ratcliffe, B.C. 2009. Black is beautiful, baby! Scarabs 46: 1-2.

G R A N T S

Lance Meinke

- Pioneer Hi-Bred International \$3,900
 "Biology and Ecology of Diabrotica"

MEET AN OFF-CAMPUS STUDENT

Off-Campus M.S. Student – **Vaughn Hammond**

Agriculture has been a passion of mine since I was a kid spending as much time as possible on my grandparent's farm. I always dreamed of growing things other than traditional crops and livestock. Those dreams led me into the field of horticulture.

I received my B.S. in Agriculture from the University of Nebraska—Lincoln. I studied horticulture and was the last graduate from UNL with an option in fruit and vegetable production. My first job out of college was on the North Fork of Long Island, where I managed a hydroponic salad and herb greenhouse and a specialty vegetable farm. This is where insects became part of my life. This is where I realized the fine line that separates insect pests from beneficial insects - where the promotion of one could lead to the reduction of the other. Praying mantis fascinated me.

As all good things must come to an end, we moved back to Nebraska to raise our family. I ultimately went to work at the University of Nebraska as a Research Technician working with grapes. This opened the door to a whole new set of insects that were generally off the radar screen for the typical Nebraska ag producer.

I currently work as an Extension Technologist with Extension at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. My area of expertise is diversified, alternative agriculture. The crops that I work with are varied. They include grapes, tree and small fruits, *Aronia melanocarpa*, woody florals and market vegetables to name a few. Some of these plants are new to production in Nebraska and started out having very few insect pests, but as time has progressed, we are finding that what may have started out as an insect pest free crop is rapidly becoming an insect magnet.



When I decided to go forward with my education and get my Master's degree, entomology was the place for me, because that was where I was seeing all the developing issues coming from. The distance delivered M.S. program that the Department of Entomology offered was the perfect answer for me. The support that I have gotten from the instructors and staff has been excellent. What I thought was going to be a painful experience (going back to school) has been completely the opposite. If all goes as planned, I hope to receive my degree this May, which is something that I never dreamed would happen, but it has thanks to distance education.

FACULTY NEWS

Dr. Brett Ratcliffe received a large, framed presentation of his 11 covers that appeared on *The Coleopterists Bulletin* from the Coleopterists Society in recognition of 15 years of service to the society as secretary.

Dr. Tom Weissling received a U.S. Army Freedom Team Salute Commendation for his contribution to the Army community. The commendation was submitted by 1LT James Cannon, a student in the off-campus masters program.

STUDENT NEWS

Sek Yee Tan was awarded \$500 from the David and Annie Larrick Memorial Travel Fund to attend the North Central Branch ESA meeting in Louisville, KY, March 14-17, 2010.

Amanda Fujikawa was awarded \$500 from the David and Annie Larrick Memorial Travel Fund to attend the American Academy of Forensic Sciences meeting in Seattle, Washington on February 22-27, 2010.

Jesús Orozco-Araujo was awarded an Honorable Mention by the Review Committee for the Outstanding Graduate Research Assistant Award. A reception honoring all participants was held February 4 at the Van Brunt Visitors Center.

Ana Maria Vélez received a Mary and Charles Cooper/Emma Sharpless Fellowship award in the amount of \$5,000.

Belay Kondidie, Erica Lindroth, Ralph Narain, Abby Stilwell, and **Sek Yee Tan** each received a travel award in the amount of \$70 from the Myron H. Swenk Memorial Fund to attend the National ESA Meetings in Indianapolis, IN last December.

Jesús Orozco-Araujo was awarded \$150 from the Myron H. Swenk Memorial Fund to attend the Reunion Latinoamericana de Scarabaeidologia in Xalapa, Mexico last October.

Abdul Hafiz Ab Majid has passed the board certified entomologist (BCE) intern exams and is now certified in the specialty of urban and industrial entomology.

Thanks to the Insect Science Club's annual honey sale and the Bruner Club's sale of honey to the UNL Dairy Store for gift boxes, both organizations had some sweet sales this past November.

Ransom Sitz, president of the Insect Science Club, reported the club has some new members who worked hard and had great ideas. The profit of \$1,800 will be used for the next study abroad trip. The Bruner Club used their \$1,200 in profits to host a seminar speaker, made a donation to the Gifts of Love for City Impact, and helped with expenses for the department holiday party. Both clubs extend their thanks to **Dr. Marion Ellis**, who provided the honey for the sales, and also to the Entomology Department, who according to the honey sale workers, are their best customers.



Sara Pritchard, Jenny Freed, and Laura Houfek working hard at the honey sale.

FROM THE OFFICE

Funding Opportunity – USDA. Special Research Grants Program: Pest Management Alternatives Research <http://www.nifa.usda.gov/funding/rfas/pmap.html> Application deadline: 3/3/10. More information: Nathan Meier (2.1808/ nmeier@unl.edu)

TRAVEL

Dr. Blair Siegfried participated in a U.S.-China Scientific Exchange Program sponsored by USDA and the Chinese Ministry of Agriculture. The focus of the trip was "RNA Interference: A sustainable control alternative for Integrated Pest Management" that involved entomologists and plant scientists representing UNL, North Carolina State University and the University of Kentucky. USDA Team Members were Guiliang Tang, University of Kentucky; Coby Schal, North Carolina State University, **Blair Siegfried**, UNL; and **Xuguo (Joe) Zhou**, University of Kentucky. The team visited with leading scientists representing both universities and research institutes in Beijing, Shanghai, and Hangzhou, and with members of the Foreign Agricultural Service of the U.S Embassy in Beijing. In addition to the scientific meetings hosted by the Ministry of Agriculture, there were numerous opportunities to visit famous attractions and develop an appreciation for Chinese culture and tradition.

Calendar of Events

February 16, 2010

- Entomology Seminar – Bamphitlhi “Banks” Tiroesele, 4:00 p.m. , Nebraska East Union

February 23, 2010

- Entomology Seminar – Silvana Moraes, 4:00 p.m., Nebraska East Union

February 27, 2010

- Beginning Beekeeping Workshop, Hastings, NE

March 2, 2010

- Entomology Seminar – Muhammad Irfan Ullah, 4:00 p.m., Nebraska East Union

March 9, 2010

- Entomology Seminar – Anh Hoang, 4:00 p.m., Nebraska East Union

March 13, 2010

- Beginning Beekeeping Workshop, Nebraska City, NE

March 14-21, 2010

- Spring Vacation (UNL offices are open Monday through Friday)

March 19, 2010

- Entomology Department Meeting, 9:00 a.m., ENTO 214

March 23, 2010

- Entomology Seminar – Ryan Geisert, 4:00 p.m., Nebraska East Union

March 30, 2010

- Entomology Seminar – Sean Whipple, 4:00 p.m., Nebraska East Union

April 6, 2010

- Entomology Seminar – A. Justin McMechan, 4:00 p.m., Nebraska East Union

April 13, 2010

- Entomology Seminar – Jessica Jurzenski, 4:00 p.m., Nebraska East Union

April 17, 2010

- Beginning Beekeeping Workshop – Ithaca, NE - ARDC